

REMARKS

Claims 1–34 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-31 and 33 were rejected. Claims 7, 9, 32 and 34 were objected to.

ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 7, 9, 32, and 34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 7, 9, 32, and 34 in independent form and thanks the Examiner for the allowed subject matter. Claims 7, 9, 32, and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6, 14-16, 22-24, 26-28, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,509,020 to Iwakiri (hereinafter “Iwakiri”). Applicant has canceled claims 1-3, 6, 14-16, 22-24, 26-28, and 31 without prejudice and reserves the right to continue prosecution of the above claims in a further application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 17, 25, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri. Applicant has canceled claims 4, 17, 25, and 29.

Claims 5, 8, 30, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri in view of U.S. Patent 6,560,744 to Burshtein (hereinafter “Burshtein”). Applicant has canceled claims 5, 8, 30, and 33.

Claims 10-13 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri in view of U.S. Patent 6,580,556 to Guey (hereinafter “Guey”). Applicants have canceled claims 10-13 and 18-21.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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